

SELECTIVELY PASSIVE FORWARD SHIELDING
MEDICAL NEEDLE DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0053] A shieldable needle device for shielding used needle cannulas. The device generally includes a hub housing and an elongated shield housing. A needle cannula having a distal puncture tip extends from the hub housing, with at least a portion of the needle cannula extending through the passageway of the shield housing. A biasing member acts on the shield housing to bias the shield housing from a first biased position adjacent the hub housing toward a second position covering the distal puncture tip of the needle cannula. An engagement mechanism extends dorsally from the hub housing and is in releasable engagement with a portion of the shield housing for releasably retaining the shield housing in the first biased position adjacent the hub housing. Activation of the engagement mechanism to shield the needle can be effectively accomplished during removal of the needle device from a patient, thereby providing for a passive activation of the device during normal use.